



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

sometime in the 90's when a party from the revenue cutter Corwin landed and shot 16.

The old trails Elliott mentions are still plainly seen, worn deep into the tundra. Skulls of several animals were found, all with bullet holes in them, and two were preserved. Very probably a few bears may still come down in winter on the ice pack but they have been hunted so much of late years that they cannot be common.

Microtus abbreviatus. Hall Island Meadow Mouse.—Runways of rodents completely undermine certain large areas of both St. Matthew and Hall Islands, but at the present time most of them are unused. Indeed "fresh signs" of mice were rarely found and the result of my trapping is a single adult female, skin and skeleton. The remains of others were collected in owl pellets and there appears to be more than one species. This material has not been critically examined, but in all probability it includes bones of *Microtus a. fisheri* Merriam, described from specimens taken on St. Matthew Island in 1899 by Dr. A. K. Fisher, during the visit of the Harriman Expedition.

NESTS OF THE WESTERN FOX SQUIRREL

BY H. L. STODDARD

[Plate 7]

All accounts of the habits of the western fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger rufiventer*) that I have been able to find, speak of the young as being brought forth in hollow trees, no mention being made of the carefully constructed open nest used for this purpose in parts of the range of this squirrel.

In the sand dunes of northwestern Indiana particularly, where fox squirrels are still fairly abundant, the young born in early spring at least are usually brought forth in a very ingenious type of open nest, though hollow trees are common. These nests are round or oval in shape, tightly woven of freshly cut oak or other tough twigs. Inside of this twig shell comes a thick compact wall of large leaves, evidently pressed into shape while damp, making a smooth, tough lining capable of resisting wind, cold and rain. The nest proper is then made of soft inner bark, shredded leaves and other material.

The entrance hole is on one end and is just large enough to admit the owner, the surrounding fiber often nearly closing the opening. The accompanying figure, which is from a group prepared for circulation in the Chicago schools by the N. W. Harris Public School Extension of Field Museum, shows a typical nest in the original crotch, with one side removed to show details of construction.



NEST OF THE WESTERN FOX SQUIRREL
(Courtesy of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension of Field Museum)

(Stoddard: Nests of the Fox Squirrel.)

These nests are entirely different from the loosely constructed summer nests, and are so compactly built that they frequently remain in place many years, the squirrels using them a great deal even in coldest weather. From the ground they look something like hawks' nests, piles of sticks being all that are visible.

The three or four young, blind and nearly naked, are born in late February or March in this region, as the following records show. Nest containing three young near Millers, Indiana, March 8, 1914. Another nest located near-by the same day by my companion, Mr. L. L. Walters, contained four young about two weeks old. Millers, March 17, 1914, four young, about two weeks old; Dune Park, Indiana, April 1, 1917, three young a week or ten days old. I have never found a second litter later in the season.

Other nests of this type containing young, and dozens of empty nests examined by Mr. Walters and myself, have invariably been placed in pine trees, from twenty to forty or more feet above the ground. As a nest of this type must be built from the inside, a foundation of encircling limbs such as is offered by the northern scrub pine is necessary and may explain the absence of domiciles of this nature in the greater part of the range of this squirrel.

These winter nests are often placed in close proximity to some good old den tree, to which the squirrel can retire if disturbed, and the surrounding trees are likely to contain one or more of the temporary nests used in summer, simply twigs and leaves cut green and piled into a convenient crotch.

Young squirrels were found on a number of occasions in Sauk County, Wisconsin, in nests identical with those found in the Indiana dunes, even to being built in scrub pines, though the use of hollow trees is more general in that section, and the season later. On one occasion while examining a nest of this kind in a very small scrub pine the female squirrel jumped the sixteen or so feet to the ground, leaving one young one, just born, in the nest; proving that in this case at least the young had not been transferred from a hollow tree.